Listing of the Claims:

1-55   (canceled)

56.   (new): A computer system for backing up software stored persistently, comprising:

a software executable having an application programming interface for providing information of the software execution state;

a backup program for invoking the application programming interface for retrieving information of the software execution state; and

a storage device for persistently storing the information of the software execution state retrieved by the backup program on a medium.

57.   (new): The system of claim 56 further comprising a backup device for persistently storing operating system files and system configuration data.

58.   (new): The system of claim 56 further comprising a restore program for restoring the software executable using the information of the software execution state persistently stored on the medium by the storage device.

59.   (new): The system of claim 57 further comprising a restore process for restoring the select operating system files using the system configuration data persistently stored by the backup device.

2

60.   (new): The system of claim 56 wherein the software executable comprises an application program.

61.   (new): The system of claim 56 wherein the software executable comprises an operating system program.

62.   (new): The system of claim 56 wherein the application programming interface comprises a backup application programming interface for collecting information on the state of an executing program.

63.   (new): The system of claim 56 wherein the application programming interface comprises a backup application programming interface for writing information on the state of an executing program to the medium.

64.   (new): A computer readable medium having computer-executable components comprising the system of claim 56.

65.   (new): A method for backing up software of a computer system for subsequent restoration, comprising the steps of:

receiving information of the execution state of at least one program executing on the system;

persistently storing the information of the execution state of the at least one program;

receiving information of the system state of at least one hardware device; and

persistently storing the information of the system state of the at least one hardware device received.

66.   (new): The method of claim 65 further comprising persistently storing select operating system files and system configuration data.

67.   (new): The method of claim 65 wherein receiving information of the execution state of at least one program executing on the system comprises invoking an application programming interface for retrieving information of the execution state of the at least one program executing on the system.

68.   (new): The method of claim 65 wherein receiving information of the system state of at least one hardware device comprises receiving information of the system state of a hard disk configuration.

69.   (new): The method of claim 65 wherein persistently storing the information of the execution state of the at least one program comprises writing the information of the execution state of the at least one program to a removable medium.

70.   (new): The method of claim 65 wherein persistently storing the information of the system state of the at least one hardware device comprises writing the information of the execution state of the at least one hardware device to a removable medium.

71.   (new): The method of claim 66 wherein persistently storing select operating system files comprises writing a device driver for a backup device to a removable medium.

72.   (new): The method of claim 66 wherein persistently storing select operating system files comprises writing the select operating system files to a medium using a backup device.

73.   (new): The method of claim 65 further comprising persistently storing a recovery process.

74.   (new): The method of claim 65 further comprising persistently storing a recovery program.

75.   (new): The method of claim 65 further comprising receiving catalog information of unmodifiable files.

76.   (new): The method of claim 65 further comprising receiving registry information including system configuration data.

77.   (new): The method of claim 76 further wherein receiving registry information comprises invoking an application programming interface for retrieving the registry information.

78.   (new): The method of claim 75 further comprising writing the received catalog information to a removable medium.

79.   (new): The method of claim 76 further comprising writing the received registry information to a removable medium.

80.   (new): A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 65.

81.   (new): A method for restoring software of a computer system, comprising the steps of:

retrieving information of a previous system state of at least one hardware device stored on a medium;

restoring the previous state of the at least one hardware device using the retrieved information of the previous state;

retrieving information of a previous execution state of the at least one

program stored on a medium; and

restoring the previous execution state of the at least one program using

the retrieved information of the previous execution state.

82.   (new): The method of claim 81 further comprising executing a

restore process for restoring the previous state of at least one hardware device.

83.   (new): The method of claim 81 further comprising rebooting the

computer system from the at least one hardware device after restoring the

previous state of the at least one hardware device.

84.   (new): The method of claim 81 further comprising executing a

restore program for restoring the previous execution state of at least one

program.

85.   (new): The method of claim 81 wherein retrieving information of the

system state of at least one hardware device comprises scanning a hard disk.

86.   (new): The method of claim 81 wherein restoring the state of the at

least one hardware device using the retrieved information of the previous state

comprises determining the current state of the at least one hardware device.

87. (new): The method of claim 86 wherein restoring the state of the at least one hardware device using the retrieved information of the previous state comprises comparing the information of the previous system state of the at least one hardware device with the current state of the at least one hardware device.

88. (new): The method of claim 81 wherein retrieving information of a previous system state of at least one hardware device stored on a medium comprises retrieving information of the previous system state of a hard drive stored on a medium.

89. (new): The method of claim 81 further comprising retrieving registry information stored on a medium, the registry information including system configuration data.

90. (new): The method of claim 81 further comprising retrieving catalog information stored on a medium, the catalog information including an indication of files that are unmodifiable.

91. (new): The method of claim 81 wherein retrieving information of a previous execution state of the at least one program stored on a medium comprises retrieving information of a previous execution state of an operating system program.

92.   (new): The method of claim 81 wherein retrieving information of a

previous execution state of the at least one program stored on a medium

comprises retrieving information of a previous execution state of an application

program.

93.   (new): The method of claim 81 further comprising retrieving a

device driver for a backup device previously written to a removable medium.

94.   (new): The system of claim 93 further comprising installing the

device driver to make the backup device operative.

95.   (new): A computer readable medium having computer-executable

instructions for performing the method of claim 81.